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W. F. Webb, a wealthy Englishman, to whom the missionary was kind and helpful. Mr. Webb and his accomplished wife were in time numbered among Livingstone's dearest friends, and it was in their home, in 1863-1864, that the explorer and his daughter Agnes spent eight of the happiest months of his life. This palatial home was Newstead Abbey, famous earlier as the home of Lord Byron. Here Livingstone lived on his second and last return to England while writing one of his books; and here were forged bonds of friendship that linked the Webb family with the explorer and with all men and things that were part and parcel of his subsequent career.

This book, written by one of the daughters of Mr. Webb, tells with tact and delicacy and with fine descriptive power, of phases of Livingstone, of his characteristics, his work; of his wife and children; of great men who came into his life like Murchison and Stanley; and of humble blacks like Susi and Chumah, whose names will live. No one could have written the book lacking the opportunities the author possessed even from childhood. All who love Livingstone for the gentle, great man he was and for the potent influence he still is in the uplifting of Africa will be glad to read this interesting and intimate account of some aspects of the man concerning which not much has been written.

Premier Voyage du Sieur de la Courbe fait à la Coste d'Afrique en 1685. Par P. Cultru. lviii and 319 pp. Map. *Soc. de l'Hist. des Colonies Françaises*. E. Larose, Paris, 1913. Fr. 12. 9½ x 6.

This is a story of adventure in an adventurous era which it must have been a joy to edit. M. Cultru had the rare good fortune to discover the manuscript which had remained unpublished for more than 200 years, half in the National Library in Paris among the forgotten loot of an ancient convent, the other half in the national archives among the unused débris and roughly assigned to the West Indies in a wrong classification. When the editor brought the two fragments together he found that except for sixteen pages at the beginning of the second fragment he had a most vivid narrative of the early commercial settlement of the region of the Senegal and Gambia Rivers. It abounds in interest, it reads with the life and spirit of Robinson Crusoe with only this difference, that Defoe was writing upon material derived from another and the vivacity of the tale shows his skill as a writer while La Courbe is writing at the first hand upon his own experiences. This volume will serve to correct the statements of Father Labat, for it is now discovered to be the source from which that fiery monk has drawn without credit. The Sieur de La Courbe writes with simple force in very direct statement and journalizes his daily life when upon that coast, not a philosopher of history but a shrewd observer with a decided gift for accuracy and a zeal to test what he sees and hears. He is altogether a credit to his profession of seafaring, a good merchant adventurer. We shall not be surprised if his narrative attains a wide currency when some general publisher discovers it and rescues it from the obscurity of the scientific auspices under which it has been brought to light. In an English translation it should prove very successful.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

ASIA

The Coal and Mineral Resources of Shansi Province, China.

Analytically examined by Erik T. Nyström. 97 pp. Map, ills. P. A. Norstedt & Söner, Stockholm, 1912. 9½ x 6½.

A further step in advance in our knowledge of China's vast coal resources. His own explorations and the facilities conferred by his position as head of the Faculty of Science at Shansi Univ. enabled Nyström to find that areas of anthracitic and bituminous coals are not so well defined as Richthofen had maintained. He points instead to regions of future yield as centering around Tse Chou and Ping Ting for anthracite, while bituminous coals are shown to spread widely in the northern and western sections of the province. As to their quality, the assays generally reveal higher ash content than in British coals.

The author also says that iron occurs frequently and that its quality lends